

Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessment Resources

Quarterly Bulletin: April – June 2013

This quarterly bulletin compiles Smarter Balanced resources that were shared via the Agency's [Weekly Field Memo](#). The bulletins are stored on the Agency's [Smarter Balanced web page](#).

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NEWS & UPDATES:

Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Announces Practice Test

Audience: Superintendents, Principals, Curriculum Coordinators

Due to the overwhelming demand for access to the Volunteer Pilot Assessment from principals, teachers, parents and the public, the Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium has decided to release a more complete and more broadly available practice test. The Practice Test will provide access to: test questions and performance tasks planned and designed for new assessment; a full array of item types, including performance tasks; and test forms supporting several of the digital accessibility tools that will be available on the operational test. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Contact: SMARTER Balanced Help Desk at 1-866-815-7246 or smarterbalancedhelpdesk@air.org

Update on Smarter Balanced Progress and Finances

Audience: All

Will the Smarter Balanced Assessments be completed within budget and on time for the first scheduled administration in the spring of 2015? Executive Director, Joseph Willhoft, recently responded to questions from the Thomas B. Fordham Foundation on the assessment consortium's progress and finances. Read the article here: <http://bit.ly/13hPORX>, and learn more here <http://bit.ly/12vmqlW>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Releases Online Practice Tests

Audience: All

Teachers, parents, and students across the country can now access online practice tests aligned to the [Common Core State Standards](#) (CCSS). [Smarter Balanced](#) (SBAC) released sets of example test questions for grades 3–8 and 11 in both English language arts/literacy and mathematics. The Practice Tests will help schools prepare for the implementation of the Smarter Balanced Assessment System in the 2014-15 school year. The [Practice Tests](#) provide a preview of the types of questions that will be featured in the summative assessment beginning in 2014-15, including selected-response items, constructed-response items, technology-enhanced items, and performance tasks—extended activities

that challenge students to apply their knowledge and skills to respond to real-world problems. The [Practice Tests](http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/) are freely available here: <http://www.smarterbalanced.org/practice-test/>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

EDUCATOR OPPORTUNITIES:

Seeking Vermont Mathematics and ELA Educators for SBAC Assessment Development

Audience: Math/ELA Educators in Grades 3 - 8 and 11

Deadline: May 30, 2013

Smarter Balanced is developing assessments aligned to the Common Core State Standards (CCSS). The inclusion of qualified educators in development activities help to support a sustainable and scalable assessment system. The AOE has been asked to recruit and select qualified Vermont educators to participate in the development of activities for SBAC. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo, SBAC Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced Item Authoring Opportunities - 2013

Audience: Teachers of ELA and Mathematics, Curriculum Directors, Principals, Superintendents

Smarter Balanced is a state-led consortium working collaboratively to develop next-generation assessments aligned to the [Common Core State Standards](#) (CCSS). The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium places strong value on educator participation in the design of the items and tasks that will form the assessment system. The active involvement of teachers in the development process helps to ensure the assessment system is accurate and efficient and provides more valid evidence of student learning. Through this process, educators and states build capacity to support the overall sustainability and success of the Smarter Balanced consortium and assessment system. More information is available on our website concerning how an educator can apply: <http://bit.ly/10OpVes>.

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo, SBAC Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced Field Test Stimulus, Item and Task Review Opportunity - 2013

Audience: Audience: English Language Arts & Mathematics Teachers, Curriculum Directors, Principals, Superintendents

This spring, Smarter Balanced administered a Pilot Test of the assessment system to a sample of schools across the country. Through this Pilot Test, Smarter Balanced will gather information about the performance of assessment items and the test delivery system under real world conditions. Measured Progress is recruiting educators to participate in Stimulus Review, and Item and Task Review Committees to review stimuli, items, and tasks, and make recommendations for edits to be made for use in the Field Test. The committees will be holding their reviews online for each Stimulus Review, and Item and Task Review opportunity. [Click here](#) to learn more.

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo, SBAC Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

Smarter Balanced Data Review Opportunity - 2013

Audience: English Language Arts & Mathematics Teachers, Curriculum Directors, Principals, Superintendents

This spring Smarter Balanced administered a Pilot Test of the assessment system to a sample of schools across the country. Through this Pilot Test, Smarter Balanced will gather information about the performance of assessment items and the test delivery system under real world conditions.

CTB/McGraw-Hill is recruiting educators to participate in the **Data Review committees**. Selected educators are trained to review scored student responses of Pilot Test items. Trained educators will receive an assignment containing a batch of items to review with the deadline by which the assignment is to be completed and returned. The data review and training will take place virtually (no travel is required). [Click here](#) to learn more.

Contact: Mary Ann Minardo, SBAC Coordinator, 802-479-1309 or maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs):

Smarter Balanced: Fact vs. Fiction FAQs

Audience: All

As states move toward the implementation of the Smarter Balanced (SBAC) Assessment System in the 2014-15 school year, teachers, students, parents, and the general public are learning more about the advantages of next-generation assessments. However, growing interest in [SBAC](#) can also lead to misunderstandings and occasional distortion of facts. The following talking points provide information to correct common misperceptions about the assessments. [Click here](#) to view the FAQs.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: What about Chromebooks & Technology?

Audience: All

Can students use their Chromebooks to complete the assessment? [Click here](#) to read the answer. Learn more about SBAC and technology readiness here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: How Can I Access the Practice Test?

Audience: All

How can I get access to the Practice Test online? [Click here](#) to read the answer.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: What Happens After Implementation?

Audience: All

What happens after [Smarter Balanced \(SBAC\) assessments](#) are implemented in the 2014-15 school year? Read the answer to this week's question and learn more here: <http://bit.ly/16Hd8jB>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: What Do I Need to Know about the Training Test?

Audience: All

Do students and administrators need to be entered in TIDE before beginning the Practice Test? [Click here](#) to read the answer. [Click here](#) to learn more about the spring 2013 Pilot Test.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: Are Teachers Involved in Creating the Assessment System?

Audience: All

How are teachers involved in creating the Smarter Balanced assessment system? [Click here](#) to read the answer. [Click here](#) to learn more about SBAC in Vermont.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SBAC FAQ: Where Can I Find Sample Questions?

Audience: All

Are sample Smarter Balanced (SBAC) assessment questions available? [Click here](#) to read the answer. Learn more about the new assessments here: <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

SMARTER Balanced: Practice Test FAQs

Audience: All

The Practice Test will be open and available from the [Smarter Balanced website](#) throughout the summer and into the next school year – allowing more time and providing teachers, schools, parents, and others a better and more comprehensive look at what the Smarter Balanced assessment will entail. Learn more about the Pilot Test here: <http://bit.ly/VZa62G>, read the FAQs here <http://bit.ly/17XwLlm>.

Contact: Michael Hock, State Assessment Director, 802-479-1288 or michael.hock@state.vt.us

AOE CONTACTS:

Assessment

Michael Hock, State Assessment Director & SBAC Executive Committee Member

p) 802-479-1288

e) michael.hock@state.vt.us

w) <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>

SBAC Teacher Involvement Coordinator

Mary Ann Minardo, SBAC Teacher Involvement Coordinator

p) 802-479-1309

e) maryann.minardo@state.vt.us

w) <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>

SBAC Readiness

Peter Drescher, SBAC Technology Readiness Coordinator

p) 802- 479-1169

e) peter.drescher@state.vt.us

w) <http://education.vermont.gov/sbac>